

We claim:

1. A crystalline choline ascorbate
- 5 2. A crystalline choline ascorbate as claimed in claim 1 in the form of crystals free from water of crystallization.
- 10 3. A crystalline choline ascorbate as claimed in either of claims 1 or 2, wherein the diffraction lines at $d = 3.80 \text{ \AA}$ and 4.55 \AA are most intense in the range between 3.40 and 4.70 \AA in the 2θ -X-ray powder diffractogram
- 15 4. A crystalline choline ascorbate as claimed in claim 3, wherein the intensity ratio of the diffraction lines at $d = 3.80 \text{ \AA}$ and $d = 4.55 \text{ \AA}$ is at least 0.5 .
- 20 5. A crystalline choline ascorbate as claimed in claim 3, wherein the intensity ratio of the diffraction lines at $d = 3.80 \text{ \AA}$ and $d = 4.67 \text{ \AA}$ is at least 0.4 .
- 25 6. A process for preparing crystalline choline ascorbate by reacting ascorbic acid with trimethylamine and ethylene oxide, which comprises carrying out the reaction in the temperature range from -10°C to 40°C .
- 30 7. A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the reaction is carried out in a water-miscible organic solvent.
- 30 8. A process as claimed in claim 7, wherein choline ascorbate is crystallized in the solvent used for the reaction.
- 35 9. A choline ascorbate obtainable by a process defined according to one of claims 6 to 8.
- 35 10. The use of choline ascorbate defined according to one of claims 1 or 9 for producing drugs.
- 40 11. The use of choline ascorbate defined according to one of claims 1 or 9 as additive in foods, animal feeds, or as a component in food supplements.